REMARKS

Applicant first notes that claims 1-4 have been cancelled without prejudice, thus, rendering the § 102 rejections moot. Further, Applicant has amended dependent claims 6, 9-10, 14-15, 20, and 22-23 to clarify language and correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a method of handling incoming calls over a wireless communications network. The network includes a voice message mailbox system where the user may store a plurality of customized voice messages. Associated with each message is an identifier. The identifiers are also associated with one or more predetermined phone numbers that are stored on the user's wireless communications device. When the user receives an incoming call from a remote party, the wireless communications device selects an identifier associated with the phone number of the incoming call, and transmits the identifier to the network as a series of bits in a registration frame. The network then directs the incoming call to the voice message mailbox system, and renders the customized message associated with the selected identifier to the remote party.

The Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Chow in view of Arbel. Claim 5 has been amended to require, "selecting, at the wireless communications device, one of a plurality of pre-recorded messages to play back to a caller of the incoming call, wherein the plurality of pre-recorded messages are stored at a voice message mailbox in the wireless communications system." Respectfully, neither Chow nor Arbel teach or suggest alone or in combination that a wireless communications device selects which message to play back to a remote party. The Examiner admits that Chow fails to teach a plurality of messages stored at the network. More importantly, however, Chow also fails to teach or suggest that selecting the identity of a particular pre-recorded message is done at the wireless communications device. At most, Chow discloses that a user can manually enable functionality that instructs the network where to route an incoming call. While the destination may include a voice mailbox, there is

nothing to suggest that the user's device selects and instructs the network to play a particular message to the calling party. In fact, it appears as though Chow conventionally renders <u>the same voice message to all</u> remote parties once they have been forwarded to the voice mail system.

Arbel discloses storing a plurality of pre-recorded messages at the network, but like Chow, fails to teach or suggest that the user's wireless communications device selects a particular pre-recorded message. According to Arbel, users pre-provision a network database to associate various messages with pre-determined phone numbers. When the network processes incoming calls destined for the user, however, the network – not the user's wireless communications device - selects a particular voice message to render to the remote party. Whatever message is played depends solely on information in the database (located in the network), and not on information stored on the user's communication device. Arbel never mentions that a wireless communications device is even capable of selecting which message to play. It appears as though Arbel is content to leave this functionality to the network entity.

Thus, neither reference teaches the requisite "selecting" step, which is enough to have the § 103 rejection withdrawn. However, the rejection fails for an additional reason. More specifically, the references fail to produce Applicant's claimed invention even if they are combined. As previously stated, Chow simply sends an instruction to forward the call to a voice mail system where all callers get the same message. Arbel teaches selecting a particular message without having to go to the user's device for information. Therefore, even if the references could be combined, selection of a particular message would still be accomplished within the realm of the network and not the user's device. The Examiner takes Official Notice that it is known in the art to use "identification for identifying a prerecorded message." However, the only reference that might support this assertion discloses performing the functionality exclusively within the network. Both the references (and the Official Notice) fail to address the fact that the wireless communications device is required to identify the caller and select the

message <u>for the network</u>. Therefore, neither Chow nor Arbel teach or suggest, alone or in combination, amended claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claim 5 and its dependent claims 6-12.
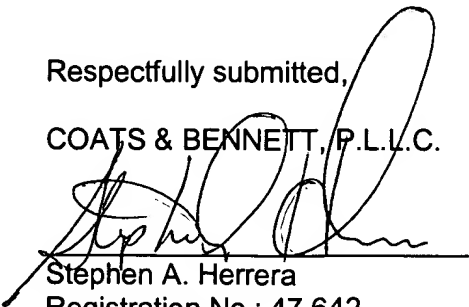
The Examiner also rejected claim 13 citing the same references and similar reasoning as stated above for claim 5. However, claim 13 has been amended to contain language similar to that of claim 5. Thus, for the reasons stated above, neither Chow nor Arbel teach or suggest, alone or in combination, amended claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of claim 13 and its dependent claims 14-23.

Finally, there are several dependent claims worthy of specific mention. Amended claims 6 and 15, for example, further require that the wireless communication device transmit an identification of a particular pre-recorded message as a plurality of bits in a registration frame. Amended claims 10 and 20 further define how the wireless communications device selects the pre-recorded message. For the reasons stated above, neither of the references cited by the Examiner teach nor suggest, alone or in combination, the subject matter of claims 6, 10, 15, and 20. Therefore, claims 6, 10, 15, and 20 are also allowable over the cited references.

Respectfully submitted,

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